

Fire Prevention Tips - Home

Kansas State Fire Marshal - 2009



Photo By:
Bonner Springs Fire Dept – KS
2008 House Fire

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2008 a home structure fire was reported every 82 seconds. Additionally one civilian fire death occurred every 2.5 hrs. Most home fires are preventable.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office encourages everyone to review the Home Fire Prevention Tips to see how safe your home is.

Don't let your home become a statistic.

Smoke Detectors:

- _ Install a working smoke detector on every level of the home
- _ Test all smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year

Smoking Practices:

- _ Do not smoke in bed or while lying down. Best practice is to smoke outside!
- _ Dispose of ashtrays contents in the trash only after wetting the ashes

Kitchen:

- _ Never leave cooking unattended
- _ Make sure everyone knows how to put out a grease fire with a lid. Never use water!
- _ Do not use the stovetop to store items

Electrical:

- _ Plug large appliances directly into wall outlets. Check the amperage to make sure you don't overload the socket.
- _ Use extension cords sparingly and do not piggy-back the cords (one plugged into another)
- _ Repair loose or worn-out outlets, light fixtures, cords, fixtures, etc immediately upon discovery

Heating:

- _ Have all heating systems, including fireplaces, inspected and cleaned prior to every heating season
- _ Keep all heating systems away from flammable items (at least 3 ft)
- _ Use portable space heaters sparingly and never leave them turned-on while unattended or sleeping

General Household:

- _ Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children
- _ Never leave candles burning while unattended
- _ Store paints and other flammables in approved containers outside or in a garage/shed
- _ Clean the clothes dryer lint screen frequently to keep the airway open. If you use fabric sheets you should scrub the lint screen with dish soap to remove the invisible residue at least twice a year
- _ Have an ABC fire extinguisher in your kitchen and garage for on-the-spot small fires only